

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission
Minutes of Meeting – October 26, 2002**

Present: Commissioners –
Sue Cone, Village of Calumet
Kathryn Eckert, At-Large, National Park Service
Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners
Paul Lehto, Calumet Township
Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Township

National Park Service –
Frank Fiala, Superintendent
Martha Armington, Management Assistant
Abby Sue Fisher, Chief of Museum, Archives & Historical Services
Brian Hoduski, Curator
Al Hutchings, NPS, Midwest Regional Office
Geri Larsen, Maintenance Worker
Ron Welton, Exec. Director, KNHPAC

Don Durfee, Isle Royale Natural History Association
Erik Nordberg, MTU Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
Amy Wisti, office of Rep. Bart Stupak
Ed Yarbrough, Quincy Mine Hoist Association

Absent: Larry Lankton, At-Large, National Park Service
Tom Nemacheck, State of Michigan

Recording Secretary: Abby Sue Fisher

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held on Saturday, October 26, 2002 at the KNHP Headquarters in Calumet. Chairman Paul Lehto called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m., and immediately introduced Ron Welton, the new executive director of the KNHP Advisory Commission. Ron has been on the job for about two weeks.

Al Hutchings from the Midwest Regional Office in Omaha was introduced. Frank Fiala requested completion of some old business; in the past, Al had been a regular attendee of the Commission meetings, but has not attended in some time. Frank presented Al with a name tag on behalf of the KNHP, and welcomed him at all future meetings.

Agenda

The agenda was approved with no additions. Paul requested that the Commission members remain after the meeting to meet Ron.

Review of Minutes

Minutes from the Advisory Commission meeting held July 24, 2002 were approved as written.

Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

Superintendent's Report

► 10th Anniversary Celebrations:

Frank thanked the staff and contractors involved in the C&H General Office Building restoration and recognized the incredible amount of effort and patience taken in preparing for the dedication tomorrow. He also recognized Tom and Kathy Baker for their efforts in preparing materials for the Founders' Dinner and the subsequent activities, and to Sue Cone, Bob Langseth, and Paul for their time and expertise.

Regional Director Bill Schenk will be in attendance representing the National Park Service director, who is travelling and unable to attend. John Trezise, who has roots in Calumet, will be in attendance representing the Secretary of the Interior. Sen. Levin and Congressman Stupak will also attend. After the formal program, there will be a quick dedication ceremony. Thirteen students from Hancock and Calumet representing each grade in the school system will participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate the building as the official Park Headquarters. St. Anthony's Bell will toll for three minutes, with other church bells to follow.

► Properties:

- 1) The C&H GOB is approximately 90% complete; the fire sprinkler system still needs to be installed.
- 2) At the Union Building, a contract firm has been selected. Frank will meet with them next week to peruse the details of the rehabilitation project to commence next spring.
- 3) KNHP is working with both Isle Royale National Park and Franklin Township with the smelter project; a presentation on that project will occur in the near future.
- 4) In late July, four people met with Frank and Bill Sproule (MTU Civil Engineering) to discuss the alternative transportation study. Michigan Tech will be in the lead entity in a two-year project commencing in the fall.
- 5) A graduate student is exploring some rail links in the Quincy unit and hopes to be finished with that study by May.

- 6) Frank presented the new October issue of the KNHP Newsletter, which focuses on the upcoming anniversary, but also contains an article on the youth conservation corps program from the summer. The kids worked very hard for eight weeks doing very mundane things, working for the Park, the Village, Quincy Mine Hoist Association, moving materials between buildings, and it was an asset to have them. The program is funded for the summer of 2003, and Frank is hoping to expand the funding.
- 7) Closing on the Rowe property occurred on September 18 and the building now belongs to the National Park Service. Rowe needs to modify their new building, so there will be a transition period of approximately six months.

► Budget:

- 1) The Park is under a continuing resolution, operating at last year's levels. This will run through November 21; Frank is unsure what will happen with Congress.

► Activities:

- 1) Ray Tiberg, Superintendent of the Calumet School District, has requested that the core samples be removed from the dry house by May 1st. KEWE is looking for a storage site for those until the Park decides on its next action. Frank would like to work with the school to partner on a vocational education program that may benefit both KEWE and the students. Frank would like to keep the core samples in place and interpret them there, possibly purchasing the building if needed.
- 2) Michael Matts of the National Trust for Historic Preservation would like to meet with Ron and other Commission members, possibly in November.
- 3) In response to Clyde Raasio's question from the last meeting regarding an advertisement in the local newspaper about Union Building materials, Frank reported the Park investigated that ad and subsequently acquired those materials.

Questions asked of the Superintendent:

Kathryn Eckert inquired as to whether the School had immediate plans to remove the dry house building. Frank is unsure of the School's plans, but thinks the building could be converted to a vocational education shop.

Paul was interested to hear that Michael Matts was intending to visit. Bob Langseth asked who had done the initial contact; Frank replied that Mike had sent him an e-mail.

Reports from the Commissioners

Kathryn displayed an advance copy of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network's publication, "Investing in Michigan's Future," which explains the economic benefits of preservation tax credits and the jobs that historic preservation creates in a community. The publication will be available shortly and would be a resource to help promote preservation among property owners.

Frank thanked Kathryn for her presentation in Jacobsville on sandstone architecture as part of the "Fourth Thursday in History" series co-sponsored by KNHP and the MTU Archives. Kathryn, in turn, thanked Erik Nordberg and Abby Sue Fisher for their efforts in salvaging the program by running two sessions, as the program was overwhelmingly attended.

Kathryn reported that the Network's new executive director, whose name may be Nancy Finegood, is starting next week, and also that the Network intends to move its offices from Clarkston to Lansing.

Clyde reported that reconstruction of the scenic lookout area was completed in late September, and is an improvement. However, the map of the Keweenaw area in place before the work began has not been returned or replaced.

Sue Cone announced a delay in the Sixth Street project until next year because of so many other road projects this year. This will probably be advantageous as the Village's grant covers the repaving of Sixth Street and a concrete intersection combined with a joint grant with the Township and the Village, repaving all along Sixth Street out to the Sixth Street Extension, new sidewalks and historic lighting on Sixth Street, putting brick down on Pine Street, and some sidewalks and curbing there. Bids will be opened on Monday to do some work on the clock tower at the Calumet Theatre. The Historic District Commission has been very active. Sue thanked the NPS for its assistance with the Theatre, Fire Museum and DDA projects. She also expressed her gratitude to the Park for preserving the C&H buildings.

Bob Langseth has been asking the cooperating sites for their expenditure figures, and will have those figures for tomorrow. He and other crew members have spent \$112,000 this summer for interior improvements at St. Anne's. Bob complimented Tom and Kathy Baker on their materials for the 10th anniversary.

Paul reported a contractor has been selected to do the restoration work on the drill shop needed to stabilize that building. A new EDC project will focus on the development of downtowns; Paul believes this is a good fit for downtown Calumet. Paul asked Al if he would stay after the meeting to meet with Ron Welton, and Al agreed.

Al met with Abby Sue on an overview of the oral history project yesterday. KEWE is progressing faster than other new parks in the last ten years. Budgets will not be great but the momentum is good. Al advised the Commission to be generous tomorrow in their thanks to Sen. Levin and Congressman Stupak, and also John Trezise.

Bob asked for an update on the signage discussed at the last Commission meeting. Frank said a new Park Headquarters sign will be unveiled tomorrow that would be representative of signage in the National Park system.

Paul welcomed Ron Welton and invited him to address the Commission. Ron has been orienting himself to places and people, and looks forward to partnering with the community. For those unfamiliar with Ron's background, Frank explained that Ron is recently retired from the DNR for the State of Michigan. He was formerly the manager of the Porcupine Mountains and a variety of different parks in the U.P. and in the state.

Public Questions and Comments

Amy Wisti reported that due to the current election campaign, the budget situation is on hold. Congressman Stupak is looking forward to attending the anniversary celebrations tomorrow.

Erik Nordberg has received word that Gov. Engler will sign an appropriations bill that will include \$25 million for a new Center for Integrated Learning and Technology at Michigan Tech. Most of that will fund a new computer science building, but the rest will fund an addition to the existing library building. The Archives will be moving into the new addition and will have 8,000 square feet of new purpose-built space, up from its current 5,000 square feet. Groundbreaking is scheduled for May 9, 2003 with an Archives move-in by the fall of 2005.

Erik reported that the second season of the "Fourth Thursday in History" series was completed this week, a well-attended genealogy workshop. Abby Sue, Erik, and others are close to finalizing the winter-spring series. Liz Valencia of IRNP will present on commercial fishing on Isle Royale, Jo Urion will give a workshop on how to conduct your own family oral history, in March local high school students will display their history day projects and will participate in a "quiz bowl" type of competition on local history. Looking toward the summer, Arne Alanen (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison) will present on the Finnish-American impact on the cultural landscape, and an underwater diver will speak on shipwrecks on the Keweenaw. Abby Sue and Erik have been pleased with the response to local history matters, and are open to identifying interesting speakers, topics, and appropriate settings.

Paul announced that Monday, October 28 at 9:30, Senator Levin will be unveiling a new snowman stamp, the official holiday stamp of 2002, at Michigan Tech.

Bob followed up to Erik's report that he appreciated getting young people involved in local history. Randy Weege has a vision of copper mining that may be helpful to the series.

Ed Yarbrough reported Quincy is down about 4%. He sees that as part of a trend of the economy of the region. They received two grants through the NPS regional office for stabilization of the Roundhouse and the Boiler House. Ed thanked Frank and the KEWE staff for requesting that, as those buildings are greatly in danger. The Hoist will be open between Thanksgiving and Christmas for sales and surface tours. In 2003, the Association will reprint Old Reliable. The Association also reprinted Range of Opportunity, Boom Copper, and a Historic American Engineering Record book called Quincy Mine Company Architecture and Community. They

QMHA still plans to purchase 80 acres on the southeast side of U.S. 41. Ed appreciated Ron's willingness to meet him and tour the Quincy site within his first week on the job.

Don Durfee invited everyone to the IRNHA's annual meeting at 4:00 tomorrow in the same place as the Commission meeting. He distributed the Association's current newsletter. The Association has finished renovating the outside of the Pewabic House, birthplace of Mary Stratton. With the fundraising efforts solicited in the sales of a pewabic tile, he is hoping to refurnish the inside, opening it up as exhibit space and a potential clay studio. Kathryn reported that she has been invited to speak in Ann Arbor in March on Mary Chase Stratton's connection between Hancock and Detroit. Now, there is a downstate community interested in listening about Mary's birthplace.

Mary Hunt, a Jacobsville resident, introduced herself as having written a travel guide to the Upper Peninsula. She invited the Commission to peruse the guide and make additions or corrections.

Paul asked for a ten-minute recess to be followed by a meeting between the Commission, Al, and Ron. Some bills need to be paid in connection to the anniversary and a motion will need to be made. Kathryn asked if that motion was being made now. She is concerned about the budget and the proposed expenditures. Paul said that would occur after the recess.

[tape off]

[tape resumed]

Paul reported an informal continuance of the meeting.

Kathryn asked the status of the Commission's funds. Paul said a motion needed to be made in order to pay the bills in connection with the anniversary. Kathryn did not know whether the Commission had agreed to pay them; she has not heard anything to that effect. Sue replied that the Commission did not know their current budget. There needs to be a finance committee meeting to make up a budget. Kathryn asked for total assets, and Sue reported there was \$150,000 in the bank. Frank has paperwork for fiscal year 2003 of \$100,000 coming.

Kathryn does not want to vote on paying bills before having a budget. Paul said we need to pay the executive director since one has already been hired. Sue has a meeting scheduled with an accountant next week to ensure proper procedure of payroll checks and taxes, but cannot give Kathryn an answer until she does that. Kathryn said there needs to be a process for dealing with fiscal matters – the role of the director and how the Commission will function. Lynn Bjorkman may be drafting something. Frank said some things had been prepared as a basis for discussion. There needs to be a committee established to begin that on behalf of the Commission and the Park and work on getting the answers Kathryn wants. There could be a transitional committee in the meantime.

Paul indicated it was assumed the Commission was paying for the dinner tonight and the gathering at Finlandia University. Kathryn questioned this assumption, and asked the anticipated

expenditure for the events. Frank estimated around \$3,500 for the weekend festivities. Paul added that the medals presented are being given by the Advisory Commission. Frank thought there may have been a budget established earlier; Paul didn't recollect a budget. Kathryn reiterated there needs to be operating rules. Paul said there were meetings held between KNHP Advisory Commission meetings where members of the 10th Anniversary Planning Commission had made certain decisions about the anniversary events. Paul made a motion for the Advisory Commission to pay the bills for the celebration.

Bob reported that it was not just Paul, Sue and Frank making the decisions. The Commission authorized the 10th anniversary and were asked to put together a meeting of interested parties. After that meeting, Paul, Bob, Sue and three Commission members have been on the planning commission to work through the events and the Commission's responsibilities. Kathryn asked if the Park Service was paying for anything related to the celebration, or was it solely the responsibility of the Commission. Frank said the Park had incurred its own expenses. Sue moved that the Commission pays the bills for the celebration activities. Kathryn asked up to what amount, and Sue replied up to \$5000. Motion passed.

Sue would like to be on a finance committee. Bob would like Clyde on it. Paul asked if there were minutes from the meeting where he established the bank account for the checks. Sue, Bob, and Paul were signatories on those checks. Sue was designated the treasurer and sent in quarterly reports. A finance committee would be responsible for coming back with a budget for the next meeting, in cooperation with Frank and Ron. Bob moved that a finance committee of Sue, Paul and Clyde meet with Ron and Frank, and bring back a budget for the next meeting. Motion passed.

Kathryn asked what would be done in the meantime to pay expenditures. Sue said expenditures would have to be formally approved by the finance committee, but a small amount could be paid. Paul said Ron had to set up an office; buy himself a computer, office equipment, and fax machine. Frank is providing office space, telephone, use of the copy machine, and postage. Paul asked Ron to verify if the computer was around \$2,500. Ron was unable to verify that. Clyde moved to formalize office furniture for Ron not to exceed \$7,500. Motion passed.

Sue reported that at the Village level, the president is allowed to approve expenditures up to \$500 without immediate board approval and asked if the Commission wanted to do that so that Paul could pay bills without gathering a committee. Sue moved that the chair be allowed to approve expenditures up to \$500 without full Board approval. Motion passed.

Sue said another issue is a contract for Ron, and she distributed templates and guidelines from other agencies, asking that Commission members keep them to themselves. Kathryn asked Al if there were other comparable positions within the Park system, and Al said yes, and he would investigate how those were done. Most of the other executive directors are people who move from the Park Service into those jobs and retain their federal status. Sue said there needs to be a contract that clearly states Ron's fringe benefits. Paul said they are currently operating under the letter offering Ron the position. Sue, Clyde and Paul will work up a contract with Ron. Kathryn asked if Ron reported to the Commission or the Park Service, and Ron replied he reported to the Commission. Al asked if there was legislation addressing this issue, and Frank said no, that it

just says that the body is free to hire and retain staff. Paul said the finance committee will come up with a contract for a three-day review by the other members of the Commission.

Frank clarified that there were two issues, an operating contract of how the Commission and Park will function. Martha Armington and Lynn have been working on that but it is not complete. The other issue is a personnel contract for Ron, which is what the finance committee has been charged with.

Sue spoke with Tom Nemacheck yesterday. He thought it was important for Ron to contact other parks with commissions and investigate how other executive directors operate. Ron said there was always a lot to be learned from others already doing a job so you do not spend time trying to uncover solutions to problems that other parks have already solved. Al said Frank would help Ron with other contacts but there are not many NPS sites with executive directors. Kathryn would like to fund any training Ron feels would be useful. Al asked Frank to get Ron on the training e-mail list.

In establishing dates for the next year's meetings, Frank reported that in 2002 the Commission met on January 8, but asked the members to meet later on in the month. Kathryn will continue to serve even though her term has expired.

Meeting Dates:

1 st quarter:	Thursday, February 6, 2003
2 nd quarter:	Tuesday, April 29, 2003
3 rd quarter:	Tuesday, July 22, 2003
4 th quarter:	Tuesday, October 14, 2003

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.